

SCOTS IN SAUMUR IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY¹

BY THE REV. JACQUES PANNIER, D.D., D. ès L.

[TRANSLATED BY W. J. C.]

I

PROFESSORS, STUDENTS, AND OTHER SCOTS.

ON the road between Paris and Bordeaux, on the left bank of the Loire, stands the town of Saumur, dominated by an old chateau. The Registers of its Reformed Church² include some interesting information regarding the numerous Scots who resided there, either as professors or as students of the celebrated Academy. It was a Protestant University, founded immediately after the Edict of Nantes in 1599 by the Governor of the town, the fervent Huguenot, Philippe du Plessis-Mornay (1589-1621). The Academy and the College were suppressed on January 8, 1685, and an order for the destruction of the church was made on January 15, several months before the Revocation of the Edict. The church had been erected by Plessis-Mornay in 1593.

Numerous extracts from the Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for eighty years (1604-1684) have been recently published by the learned M. Saché. They give an idea of the importance and composition of the Scots colony at Saumur, and include the permanent residents as well as passing tenants. The orthography is generally fantastic, and follows the pronunciation. Geddé appears for Geddie ; Ouilquy for Wilkie ; Boed for Boyd ; Nuton for Newton ; Pible for Peebles ; Wouat for Watt ; and Moure for Moore.

Among the names—about one hundred are quoted—the most worthy

¹ Cf. *Records S.C.H.S.*, IV, 93 : "Some Scots Professors and Students at Paris"—*Trans. Franco-Scot. Soc.*, 1912, p. 55 ; "Notes on some Scots in France"—Address at Glasgow, Sept. 1911, by Dr. Pannier ; *Bulletin de l'Assn. Franco-Ecossaise*, 1929 ; *Successive Residences of Scots Students in Paris*, Dr. Pannier ; P. Mellon : *L. Academie de Sedan* ; Paris, 1913.

² Five Registers, marked 4-8, Series I—*A Summary Inventory of the Departmental Archives before 1790, Maine and Loire*, by Marc Saché, departmental archivist, 4°, Angers, 1931.

of notice are those of the rectors, professors and masters of the Academy (or University) where Scots held so important a place. Those named are :

Robert Boyd of Trochrig, Saumur, 1606-1614, is noted in the Registers as a pastor from July 1606, and as a doctor and professor from 1608. In May 1611 he married Anne de Maliverné, daughter of a French gentleman, M. de la Vignole, companion of the army of Henry IV. Sixteen years later there was at Saumur a Thomas Boid, a Scots gentleman.

Mark Duncan, "a noble man," a doctor of medicine, was named a professor of philosophy in 1606; principal of the College in 1629, a position suppressed in 1623: in 1629 he again bore the title. He married in January 1611 at Saumur, had several children, and became a widower in 1629. He married a second time in 1630, and died at Saumur in 1640. Several members of his family figure in the Registers : Francis, lord of Sainte-Hélène, married a (Roman) Catholic in 1641, abjuring his faith in doing so, but soon returned to the Reformed faith, for his children were baptised in the Protestant church—François in 1642, Claude in 1643, who doubtless died early. Duncan became pastor at Bordeaux after 1608, keeping his title—an interesting fact to note.

John Cameron arrived in Saumur in 1618, and there professed his doctrine of "Hypothetical Universalism." He was still living in Saumur in May 1621, passed a short time in Paris in 1621, became Principal of the University of Glasgow in 1622, and (afterwards) returned to France. His son, John, married at Saumur in 1624.

William Craig was professor of Theology in 1608, and married a French lady, the sister of the wife of Mark Duncan. She died young before 1616, for there was in 1650 another little daughter of the same Christian name.

Rachel Duncan was married before 1645 at Loudun¹—a town a few miles south of Saumur. She died before 1676. Her husband was a counsellor *au bailliage*.

John Glasfurd or *Glasford* was the first regent of Saumur.

William Geddie succeeded him. He was the professor of Rhetoric and died in 1623.

Adam Henrison was the second regent, and died in 1611.

Philip Grayson, the third regent, died in 1621.

Philip Birgam was professor of Hebrew, and died in 1611.

Patrice Peeble became professor of Rhetoric in 1641. His wife was a relation of the illustrious Professor Amyrault.

W. Doull was later a colleague professor of Rhetoric, and married an Amyrault.

In the neighbourhood *John Hay* is to be found at the head of the

¹ *La France Protestante*, 2nd Edit., devotes several columns to the Duncans, but does not mention Rachel.

College of Thouars, a protégé of the family of La Tremville. Another Hay, *Abraham* by name, was a pastor.

After the fall of Du Plessis-Mornay in 1621, Scots Professors were seldom called to Saumur. Several Scots living in Saumur qualified as esquires—Henry Gray, Alexander Calander, Henry de Brusse (Bruce ?), Lord of Walton, William Sutherland, Lord of Duffry, and Rodric Macleven.

Besides Duncan two other doctors of medicine are to be found—David Moore and William Doull.

A few Scots were tradesmen in Saumur—Faligar, a goldsmith ; James Wilkie, a tailor, then a master tailor. Both, like the members of the University already mentioned, were married at Saumur, and there set up permanent homes. Another tailor, James Hendrick, whose father belonged to Domblans (Dunblane ?), married the daughter of a confrère, perhaps his “ patron.”

There were numerous marriages between Scots and French women—Glasford, Craig, Trochrig, Duncan, Geddie, Grayson, Alexander Hunter, John Cameron, Wilkie, Patrice Peeble, Alexander Watt, Henry Gray, Alexander Calander, James Hendrick, and Anthony Murray. Other marriages between Frenchmen and Scots women—Hay, Jeanne d’Ecosse, Marie d’Ecosse and Elizabeth O’Nier—but these marriages were rarer.

In the event of death, bodies were for the most part buried in one of the Protestant cemeteries in Saumur. On rare occasions they were embalmed or laid in a vault beneath the church, awaiting transport to Great Britain.

II

BOOKS BY SCOTS AUTHORS PRINTED IN SAUMUR.

If one cannot find in the dust of Anjou the places where the mortal remains of Scots who died in Saumur in the seventeenth century are buried (for cemeteries have disappeared), it is possible to see upon the shelves of some public and private libraries volumes published there which were the work of Scots professors and pastors.¹

In 1606 Thomas Portau printed the works of George Buchanan—*Paraphrasis Psalmorum Davidis poetica, auctore Georgio Buchanan, Scoto, poetarum sui saeculi facile principe*, 8vo. In 1607 Portau printed the *Franciscanus et Fratres elegiarum, Liber I*, etc.; it was a new edition

¹ A magnificent work on the printers and libraries of Anjou has recently been published at Angers, 4°. It is by L’Abbé Em. Pasquier and M. V. Dauphin.

of the *Paraphrasis* under another title. It was at Paris in 1566 that Buchanan printed for the first time that Latin translation of the Psalms, while he was imprisoned in the Monastery of Coimbra by the Inquisition. He died in 1582.

Another printer, Jean Bureau, reprinted this work in 1621, 24mo. and larger, of the same author, *Les Poemata*, with a title in the name of the Elzevirs at the common expense of his confrères, C. Girard and D. de Lerpinière.

To Portau Cameron again entrusted the printing of his first theses and lessons—*Theses de gratia et libero arbitrio Disputatae Aug. 14, 1618, 12mo.*¹ About 1622 Girard and Serpinière printed the *Defensio Johannis Cameronis opposita libello cui titulis est Epistola viri docti*, etc., 8vo. In 1624 they published *Sept Sermons* of the same author upon John VI, preached about 1618. From 1626 to 1628 Professor L. Cappel published three of his works in memory of Cameron: *Praelectiones in selectiora quaedam N.T. loca Salmurii habitae* in 4°. Again, half a century later, in 1677, Isaac and Henry Desbordes printed his *Myrothecium Evangelicum, avec Notes par Alex. Morus*, 4°.

A very mysterious volume, treating of a remarkable affair appeared in 1634, without the names of author and printer. But everything led one to believe that the author was Mark Duncan and the printer Jean Lesnier—*Discours de la possession des religieuses Ursulines de Loudun*, 8vo.² We have seen that a Mdlle Duncan was married in Loudun.

The Registers of the Academy of Saumur still exist, and there should be much to glean from them. The object of this paper is to give, according to the most recent publications, some idea of the important place occupied by certain Scots professors in one of the more celebrated French Protestant Universities.³

¹ La Bibliotheque Nationale has a copy—D^a 3773.

Other prints are given in Prof. Baxter and C. J. Fordyce's paper in *Records Glasg. Biblio. Soc.*, XI, 14, 15—*Theses xlvi. Theologicae de necessitate satisfactionis Christi pro peccatis*, 1620; *Defensio sententiae de gratia et libero arbitrio*, 1624; *Joh. Cameronis . . . prelectiones in selectiora quaedam Novi Testamenti loca Salmurii habita.*, 1626-28, (Posthumous)—all printed at Saumur.—W.J.C.

² The book is also advertised as '*The Devil in Disguise, or Rome run a Roving'; Being a Wonderful Discovery of many Monstrous Cheats and Impostors that the Popish Clergy in France designed to impose upon Mankind, under the Mask of Singular Piety and Holiness*', sm. 8vo, 1710. A note says:—" Apart from the title, the work is called throughout 'The History of the Devils of Loudun, or an Account of the Possession of the Ursuline Nuns, and the Condemnation and Punishment of Urban Grandier, a Parson of the same Town.' " Duncan also published at Saumur *Theses ex logicis et ethicis selectae*, 1610; *Institutionis logicae libri quinque*, 1612; 3rd edit., 1643.—W.J.C.

³ Cf. D. de Chavigny's *L'Eglise et l'Académie de Saumur*: Saumur, 1914; P. de Félice's *Les Protestants d'Autrefois, Education*, Paris, 1902; Prof. Raoul Patry, *Du Plessis-Mornay*, Paris, 1933.

